Embassy of the United States of America



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United States Embassy Skopje Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Continuing Demonstrations May 18th

U.S. Embassy Skopje informs U.S. citizens that a pro-government rally is planned to begin at 20:00 on May 18, 2015 in front of the Parliament Building. Pro-opposition demonstrators continue to demonstrate in front of the Government Building. Demonstrations may move to the Ploshtad area.

U.S. Embassy Skopje informs U.S. citizens of the potential for continued demonstrations organized by political groups in Macedonia. The groups have stated that they plan to organize DAILY protests at 18:00 in front of the Government and/or Parliament building. The anticipated sizes of the protests are unknown. Previous similar demonstrations in Skopje took place in front of the Government and Parliament buildings. The protests may block key road intersections and/or disrupt public transportation. Demonstrations have also occurred in other cities. Further demonstrations may form with little or no notice. U.S. citizens should follow local media for up to date information on demonstrations and potential disruptions of traffic.

U.S. citizens should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are advised to respect local laws, pay close attention to developments and potential traffic disruptions through local media, and plan alternate routes should you find your original plans affected.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Macedonia Country Specific Information.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at + 02 310-2000 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Afterhours emergency number for U.S. citizens is + (389) 2-310-2000.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.